



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Makoto DOKI et al. Conf.: 4503  
Appl. No.: 10/024,203 Group: 1711  
Filed: December 21, 2001 Examiner: J. Mullis  
For: POLYOXYMETHYLENE RESIN COMPOSITION

PATENT  
0152-0585P

RECEIVED  
APR 29 2003  
GROUP 1700

REPLY TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

April 28, 2003

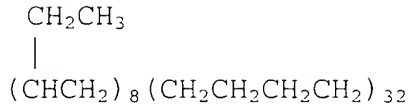
Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement dated March 28, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

***Election 1***

The Examiner requests that Applicants elect whether the polyoxymethylene resin is a block, branch or neither branch nor block copolymer. In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, a block copolymer. Furthermore, Applicants specify the specific block copolymer as the polyoxymethylene polymer of "I-2" disclosed on pages 22-23 of the specification. In this species, A is specified by  $R^2=H$  and  $j=2$ ;  $R^1$  is H; k is 2; and B is as follows:



Applicants note that the Examiner states, "[t]hey should select a specific block copolymer by choosing a specific combination of A and R<sub>1</sub> and B from claim 8". Applicants are not clear whether this comment is based on a misunderstanding of the record, since the Examiner referred to only claim 8 as having block copolymers. Applicants respectfully point out that block copolymers of the present application include two types, i.e., one is the claim 7 type block copolymer, and the other is a claim 8 type block copolymer. The present application is not solely drawn to claim 8 type copolymers.

## ***Election 2***

The Examiner requires Applicants to elect a single species of thermoplastic elastomer by selecting either random block or graft thermoplastic elastomers and also selecting either polyolefinic elastomers or styrenic elastomers or polyester based elastomers or polyamide based elastomers or polyurethane based elastomers. In response, Applicants elect with traverse, a single thermoplastic elastomer which is a random block thermoplastic elastomer and also by selecting styrenic elastomers. Such thermoplastic elastomers

are disclosed in claim 4 and "II-1 to II-3" in pages 24-25 of the specification.

***Election 3***

The Examiner requires Applicants to elect either lubricant additives or additives which are polyolefins. In response, Applicants elect with traverse, the lubricants additives which are disclosed in claim 11 and "III-1" of page 25 of the specification.

Applicants note the following Examiner's comment: "[i]f Applicants elect polyolefins, then they should elect a single species of polyolefin from one of those in claim 12". Applicants would like to clarify that the silicone-grafted polyolefinic resin of claim 12 corresponds to the "lubricant" of claim 10 and not to the "polyolefinic resin" of claim 10.

***Election 4***

The Examiner requests an election of a single molded product from either outsert molded products or a chassis or a tray or sideplate or a mechanical working component. In response, Applicants elect with traverse, a single molded product by selecting a mechanical working component and also especially

selecting a gear. These are disclosed in claims 15 and 16 and page 18, lines 12-17 in the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-elected species are encompassed by all of the claims.

Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that should the Examiner not find prior art which renders the elected species unpatentable, the Examiner is required to expand the search to include a reasonable number of additional species. (See MPEP § 809.02). Applicants respectfully submit that the scope of claim 1, includes a reasonable number of additional species for searching/examination purposes.

Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Reg. No. 43,575, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

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required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;  
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Gastmiller #43575  
for Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066

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LARGE ENTITY TRANSMITTAL FORM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Reply to Restriction/Election Requirement in the above-identified application.

- ☐ The enclosed document is being transmitted via the Certificate of Mailing provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.
- ☐ Petition for \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) month(s) extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). \$0.00 for the extension of time.
- ☒ No fee is required.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$0.00 is enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of \$0.00. A triplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #43575  
for Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066

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Attachment(s)

(Rev. 09/19/02)